

March 7, 1979

Senator Koch, then Senator Lamb. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Beutler a question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler, do you yield?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Beutler, how many bills did you introduce this session?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Six.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you very much. Members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler made the number of bills...he introduced the number of bills this year in the long session that he said should be the maximum for people in the short session. I think what Senator Beutler should recognize along with my recognizing it is that some people get more than six meritorious ideas during a legislative session. I have seven, Senator Beutler, this time so I only outdid you by one, and one of them, I understand, has been killed already. So there's been some disagreement as to how much merit my idea had. But I think when we're sent here to represent people, in reality we come from a district, but our representation extends far beyond that, and we should not attempt to limit how well a legislator can function. The purpose of legislation...the purpose of the legislative process is to consider legislation. Legislation comes before this body by means of bills being introduced, either by individuals or committees. I think we demean and degrade the concept of legislation by allowing people who don't even understand the process to say arbitrarily I think there are too many bills introduced and there should be fewer. What has to be done is to consider the merit of the measures that are introduced. I don't think there ought to be any limit. Now I only offered seven bills this year when I could have offered ten, so despite the fact that I say there should be no limit, I don't even come up to the amount that are allowable. We don't know what issues might face somebody in his or her district. So, if you do away with the allowance of ten bills, committees will have to be utilized as is the case now. So, then I understand Senator Carsten will try to break that down. Then all we'll do is suspend the rule that says you can only introduce ten bills or suspend the rule allowing the committee to introduce a certain number and we make a shambles and a mockery of the entire rule procedure. We make rules that have no meaning or significance because there are too many instances when they have to give way in order that legitimate legislative functions can be carried out. I understand what Senator Beutler is trying to do because of the way he campaigned, but what he